

PROMPT ACTION

By Congress on President Cleveland's Recommendation.

BILL IS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

Authorizing Him to Appoint Venezuelan Commission

TO INVESTIGATE THE BOUNDARY

In Dispute and Report-The War Feeling Manifested in the Senate by the Introduction of Measures Looking to the Strengthening of Our Fighting Equipments-Mr. Hill Moves to Remove Disabilities of Ex-Confederates and Mr. Chandler Has a Scheme of Defense.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18.-To-day's session of the house did not last an hour, but it sufficed for the passage of a bill authorizing the President to appoint a commission to investigate the Venezuelan boundary and appropriating \$100,000 for the expense of the commission.

The bill, which carries into effect the recommendations of the President's message, was prepared by Mr. Hill, (Rep., Ill.), this morning and met the approval of Speaker Reed. Although several Republican leaders expressed themselves in conversation as favoring the reference of the message to the committee on foreign affairs for a report, Mr. Boutelle, of Maine, was the only one who voiced that view on the floor.

Speeches for the bill were made by Mr. Hill and Mr. Crisp and attempted by other members who could not secure recognition. There was no vote against it and considerable applause was given to the patriotic references in the speeches. The house decided to have its holiday recess extended from Friday, December 20, to Friday, January 3, a vacation of two weeks. There will be but one more session before the holidays, that on Friday next, when Speaker Reed will probably defy submission and announce the house committee.

The text of the bill introduced by Mr. Hill to-day, follows:

"A bill making an appropriation for the expenses of a commission to investigate and report on the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana.

"Be it enacted by the senate and the house of representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, and the same is hereby appropriated for the expenses of a commission to investigate and report upon the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana.

"A score of considerable excitement followed the request of Mr. Hill for unanimous consent to consider the bill, which had been read by the clerk and loudly applauded.

After the brief debate referred to the bill was passed.

In the Senate.

Though less than a dozen senators were present when the session opened to-day the Venezuelan issue at once came into prominence, but not directly as in the house, the senate's business taking the form of measures for national defense.

In presenting a bill for the repeal of the law imposing disabilities on those who served in the war of the rebellion, Mr. Hill, (Dem., New York), spoke briefly. The main purpose, he said, was to wipe out that feature of the statute which prevented ex-confederates from serving in the United States navy and army. "It is most opportune at the present moment," said Mr. Hill, "that those men of the south co-operate with those of the north in giving the country any military or naval defense that may be required."

He spoke of the measure as a patriotic one, tending to obliterate the animosities of a war long ago closed. In conclusion Mr. Hill asked that the rules be suspended and the bill put on its immediate passage.

Mr. Platt, (Rep., Conn.), suggested that it was rather a novel procedure to ask the senate to pass a measure of this character before senators had considered the subject. "There is no immediate haste," said Mr. Platt, "the country is not likely to have a war before Congress reassembles after the holidays. There must be no objection to the bill after it has been examined."

Mr. Hill consented to let the bill lie on the table for the present.

Significant Moves.

Mr. Chandler immediately followed with a bill to strengthen the military armament, appropriating \$100,000,000 therefor. The reading of the title occasioned much whispered comment. It was referred to the committee on military affairs.

On motion of Mr. Davis, (Rep., Minn.) the senate agreed to a resolution calling on the President for information and all correspondence as to the establishment by Great Britain of post-offices and post roads in the United States territory of Alaska; also as to any British occupation, military or civil, of that territory; also respecting any attempt by Great Britain or Canada to assert any claim to territory of the United States in Alaska.

Another significant resolution was offered by Mr. Callinger, (Rep., N. H.), authorizing the secretary of war to contract for the purchase of an improved counterpoise battery. The resolution went to the committee on military affairs.

Then the senate settled to routine business.

NO DOUBT OF IT.

Congress Will Stand by the President.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18.-The senate committee on foreign relations was in session to-day and decided to sit during the holiday recess for the consideration of the Venezuelan question in its entirety. It is their intention to take the question up in all its phases, and to that end they will have before them all the reports and other documents bearing upon the subject. The result of this inquiry, in all probability will be a resolution defining the position of the United States on the Venezuelan dispute, coupled with a declaration of the Monroe doctrine.

The Republicans will continue their efforts to have the committee filled before the adjournment for the holidays in order to give the proceedings due weight. There is no doubt expressed in any quarter that Congress will grant the request of the President to be allowed to appoint a commission to investigate the question, but the feeling in Congress appears to be that Congress should also conduct an inquiry of its own.

Mr. Bayard Refers to Allusions.

LONDON, Dec. 18.-The annual banquet of the Actors' Benevolent Fund at the Hotel Metropole to-night was the occasion of a notable public demonstration of good feeling toward the United States ambassador, Hon. Thomas F. Bayard. Mr. Bayard in the course of his address said: "We cannot be divided. We are children of the brain, of the heart and of a common ancestry. I do not think that they will ever be permitted to die." These inferential references to current affairs were greeted with cheers and with the greatest possible enthusiasm.

WEST VIRGINIA

Public Sentiment for the Monroe Doctrine Unanimous.

MANY CITIZENS INTERVIEWED

In the Important Towns of the State at Large.

MEN OF BOTH PARTIES AGREED

In Endorsing the President's Stand-The Message Strikes a Popular Chord and There is Not a Discordant Note-General Sentiment Among Republicans is One of Satisfaction That They Can at Last Commend an Act of the Cleveland Administration.

Interviews by the Intelligencer correspondents at most of the important towns of West Virginia, develop the fact that the sentiment is practically unanimous among men of all political faiths in commendation of the President's Venezuelan message in which he upholds the Monroe doctrine. There is not one discordant note. Below will be found enough of the replies received from inquiries made by telegraph to indicate the popular sentiment in this state:

OUR CONGRESSMEN

And Senators in Line With Public Sentiment-Mr. Elkins' Views.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18.-West Virginia's representatives in Congress are a unit and in line with public sentiment in endorsing the American tone of the President's Venezuelan message. They were present and voted to-day for the appropriation of \$100,000, which, so far as the house is concerned, is at the disposal of the government to pay the expense of a commission of inquiry.

A garbled extract from Senator Elkins' expression of opinion as to the message was sent out last night, and it placed him in a wrong position. To-night he authorized the following to be sent to the Intelligencer:

"I said the state department had all needed information and could decide without a commission, and that unless the time for the commission to report was limited the decision might be delayed for a year.

"Furthermore, I said that the President should have laid all information before Congress and let it decide in its own way, and that the Republicans were not only ready to support the Monroe doctrine, but would decide promptly whether in this case it had been violated."

Senator Faulkner also endorses the message.

Mr. Dayton, of the house, said he regarded the message as truly American, and that in his judgment it was the best state paper that President Cleveland ever produced. It deserves the hearty approval of the country and should be treated as non-partisan from a political standpoint.

Mr. Huling said: "It has the true American ring. The Republican house to-day expressed its approval by voting to sustain it with money for the proposed commission."

Mr. Miller said: "It is truly an American view. This country must either maintain or abandon its position, and this seems to be an auspicious time for a test. There will be no war, of course, but a good deal of first-class diplomacy must be employed. This country cannot afford to maintain a standing army as a menace to British encroachments. And it is therefore the more necessary to require England to keep within her own lines in the Venezuela territory. As the head of the government, President Cleveland should be supported."

AT STATE CAPITAL.

Expressions from Leading Men of all Parties Endorse the Sentiment.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 18.-I have interviewed Gov. MacCorkle and several state officers, also ex-Governor Wilson, and a large number of prominent citizens to-day concerning the President's message, and with very rare exceptions they all heartily endorsed the President's course. Political lines are entirely obliterated on this question and such a feeling of genuine American patriotism has never been aroused in this section, as is being almost unanimously expressed to-day. To give the individual names of prominent men who have expressed themselves and what they say would take up all the paper.

BEN H. OXLEY,

Editor Gazette, (Dem.)

I approve the President's message on the Monroe doctrine in every particular. It is thoroughly American and Congress must sustain him.

JOHN H. FLOYD,

Editor Mail, (Rep.)

I am in favor of enforcing the Monroe doctrine at any cost.

J. E. DANA,

The governor is now absent. I quote the following from message the governor sent on request of the New York Journal: "I most vigorously applaud the hearty American sentiment contained in the message. I believe the people of this country will fully sustain and back the President in the determined stand he has taken in support of the Monroe doctrine. I believe the time has come when doctrine should be most vigorously enforced as a part of our national life."

J. B. WHITE,

Private Secretary.

In answer to your inquiry, I will say the President's message has the true ring. It is strong, clear and dignified, and puts the Monroe doctrine before the country in its true light. I endorse it over and under. A. HURLEW,

Hotel Imperial, New York, Dec. 18.

Believing that it is the duty of this country to maintain the Monroe doctrine by force if necessary, I approve the President's message. He suits me in both his statements and applications of the doctrine. W. E. CHILTON,

Secretary State of West Virginia.

GRAFTON CITIZENS

Enthusiastic in Their Commendation of the Firm Stand Taken.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.

GRAFTON, W. Va., Dec. 18.-The President's message enunciating the Monroe doctrine and its application by the Venezuelan boundary dispute with Great Britain has been widely read here and created great public interest and discussion on the streets, and in public places the message has been the theme of general talk. It is difficult to hear anywhere a discordant note, the people, irrespective of party, warmly commending the message. On the whole, Republicans express themselves as delighted in at last finding something to commend in this administration, while there is a widespread feeling of relief from the President's pronouncement that this Republican Congress will be backed up by a Democratic President in enforcing American rights abroad.

Your correspondent called upon a number of representative men of both parties and in response to the request for their view regarding the message obtained some interesting replies:

Hon. Thomas E. Davis, (Rep.), expressed himself in these words: "The President is right in demanding for the United States a commission to ascertain what is right and just respecting the territory in dispute. This done, our duty is to defend our little American republic against illegal encroachments. If we fail to do this it will bring discredit to the American people."

Hon. L. M. LaFollette, (Rep.), protesting said: "The President's message is a strong comprehensive paper and in its vigorous insistence of American rights growing out of this doctrine it is to be highly commended."

Hon. John H. Holt, (Rep.), said: "I think the President's position is right and I am heartily in favor of the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine."

Senator S. H. Gramm, (Rep.), said: "I think the country should uphold the Monroe doctrine as against the world. I do not conceive how any American President, loyal to his country's honor and welfare, could take any other position than that so ably and patriotically set forth in President Cleveland's message."

Sheriff C. L. Davidson, (Rep.), said: "I thoroughly endorse the President's message and am glad that he has at last shown a disposition to guard American rights against British encroachments."

Major F. Bruce Blue, (Rep.), said: "If the encroachments of Great Britain come within the scope of the Monroe doctrine, I believe the President is right and should be sustained."

Hon. C. F. Kunst, (Rep.), said: "If this controversy is covered by the Monroe doctrine the matter should be followed up and the Monroe doctrine sustained at any cost."

James W. Holt, editor of the Grafton Sentinel, (Rep.), said: "I like the tone of the President's message very much. He gives expression to a stalwart American sentiment that the country generally will applaud. Mr. Cleveland seems to have imbibed some of the Americanism of James O. Russell."

Mr. L. M. Maloney, (Dem., cashier of the First National Bank), said: "I heartily endorse the message. I think the suggestion wise for the appointment of a commission to ascertain the facts and upon their report our action should be determined."

Editor A. L. Taylor, of the Grafton Leader, (Dem.), said: "It is a great state paper and voices the sentiments of every true American. I am glad to see that it is endorsed by the press of the country, regardless of their political affiliations."

Postmaster S. W. Poe, (Dem.), said: "As I suppose every good American thinks, I endorse every sentiment expressed in the message."

Hons. John Blackburn, of Mannington, and Charles E. Wells, of Glovers Gap, who are in Grafton this evening, seemed well pleased over this latest move of the President and spoke in high praise of the message.

OUR COUSINS

Across the Briny Deep Much Disposed to be Saucy.

BRITISH PAPERS RIDICULING

The President's Message as a Cheap Piece of Buncombe.

SOME HAVE THE CURIOUS IDEA

That the American People Will Not Sustain the Stand Taken for the Monroe Doctrine-French Press Takes the Matter More Seriously-The German Organs Inclined to Sympathize with the British Side of the Question-Englishmen Not Concerned.

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The message, however, is being used by the stock exchange to hammer American securities. Consols also declined, but there was no excitement. One newspaper remarked:

"The Yankee jobbers are the only persons injured by the message and they have just ground for complaint."

The editorial comments of the New York World and the New York Evening Post on the situation are repeated here with approval, as indicating American opinion of the situation.

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A dispatch to the Press Association from Manchester says that President Cleveland's message to Congress on the Venezuelan question created a panic at the opening of the stock exchange there. But, at Manchester, as well as here, a recovery in prices began at noon.

The radical evening papers take the most serious view of the situation.

The Star in a double column asks: "Is it war?" Editorially, the Star remarks: "It is difficult to exaggerate the gravity of the situation. The United States may be assured that Englishmen, regardless of party, will abide firmly by Lord Salisbury's claims and will not submit to bounce."

"Public opinion," says the Westminster Gazette, "will unanimously support Lord Salisbury, but it is a pity he enlarged the dispute and attacked the Monroe doctrine."

Continuing, the Westminster Gazette remarks: "The fact is that the present situation is the result of an unfortunate combination; on one side a foreign secretary who was once a Saturday Reviewer, and who could not avoid the temptation of scoring in an argument, and on the other side a President who could not resist the temptation of scoring in an electoral campaign. But, the mass of the people of this country regard the possibility of war on any such issue with blank incredulity."

THE FRENCH PRESS

Treats the Matter More Seriously Than Its English Neighbors.

PARIS, Dec. 18.-La Patrie, referring to President Cleveland's message, remarks:

"The United States will obtain complete satisfaction by the vigorous attitude. Great Britain is only strong with the weak. She is prudent with those who are determined to defend the dignity of their country. The affair will be a great lesson to all nations."

The Journal Des Debats says: "We cannot imagine an election manoeuvre in such a grave question. It is probable, and must be hoped for, that the good sense of the statesmen at Washington and London would prevent the dispute from being envenomed to the extent of an open rupture, in spite of the excited tone of the newspapers of both countries."

The Temps says that "A fratricidal struggle between Great Britain and the great republic of the New World would seem a crime against humanity and civilization," and adds: "As such it is inadmissible that England can accept the arrogant pretensions of the message, so it is hoped that she will discover a pacific and equitable solution of the difficulty."

The Republique France says: "It is in every way a big affair which has fallen into Lord Salisbury's hands. They would not be sorry in London to draw the United States into a quarrel, in view of the frontier troubles with Brazil."

GERMAN OPINIONS.

Political Leaders Affect to Think the Monroe Doctrine a Joke.

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Count Von Kantz, the Agrarian leader and the author of the famous grain monopoly scheme, remarked: "The United States seem to be spilling for a fight, she might get her hands full."

Herr Richter, the People's party leader, said: "I suppose it is an election trick of President Cleveland's, but it is doubtful if England will back down."

Herr Von Puttkamer, ex-president, said: "The whole thing looks like an American practical joke."

Herr Von Koller, who recently resigned, followed by light rains; southerly winds, becoming variable; cooler Thursday night.

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